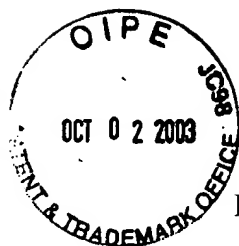


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#13

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventors: M. TALJA *et al.*

Serial No: 09/737,765

Filed: December 18, 2000

For: BIODEGRADABLE SURGICAL IMPLANTS AND DEVICES

Group Art Unit: 3738

Examiner: D. Isabella

Docket No.: 2880/323

Customer No.: 23838

(N.E.)  
S. Buyer  
10/8/03

**RECEIVED****OCT 08 2003**

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

**MAIL STOP AF**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

SIR:

In response to the Office Action of April 2, 2003, Applicants hereby petition for a three-month extension of time extending the period of response up to and including October 2, 2003. Applicants have also filed concurrently herewith a Notice of Appeal, appealing claims 1, 2, 4, and 5. The Office is authorized to charge the extension of time fee to Kenyon & Kenyon's Deposit Account No. 11-0600. Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments and request reconsideration of the present application.